

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

Application No.: 10/796,163

Atty Docket No.: Q79942

REMARKS

The Office Action of October 20, 2004 has been received and its contents carefully considered.

Claims 1 to 18 are all the claims pending in the application, prior to the present amendment.

The Examiner has not acknowledged applicants' claim for foreign priority or receipt of the certified copies of the priority documents. Applicants request the Examiner to make such an acknowledgement.

Claims 1 to 18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by either U.S. Patent No. 6,048,681 to Suzumoto et al or U.S. Patent No. 6,066,440 to Araki et al.

Applicants submit that Suzumoto et al and Araki et al do not disclose or suggest the subject matter of the present invention as set forth in the above amended claims.

Applicants have cancelled claims 1 to 7 and 16 to 18, and have amended claims 8, 12 and 13 to place them in independent form. In addition, applicants have added a new claim 19 as set forth above. Support for claim 19 can be found in the present specification at, for example, page 115, line 21 to page 116, line 6. Thus, the only claims that remain in the present application are method claims. Applicants have also amended claims 9, 10 and 14 to place them in better form.

The present invention as set forth in claim 8 as amended above is directed to a method of preparing, in a reaction vessel, a silver halide emulsion containing water, dispersion medium and silver halide grains wherein the dispersion medium comprises modified gelatin whose amino group is chemically modified, and the silver halide grains comprise spectrally sensitized silver

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halide grains each having a multilayer adsorption of dye chromophores on the surface thereof, wherein at least one of the dye chromophores is a cationic sensitizing dye and the method comprises adding, to the reaction vessel, the cationic sensitizing dye in the form of water-based dispersion.

The present invention as set forth in claim 12 as amended above is directed to a method of preparing, in a reaction vessel, a silver halide emulsion containing water, dispersion medium and silver halide grains wherein the dispersion medium comprises modified gelatin whose amino group is chemically modified, and the silver halide grains comprise spectrally sensitized silver halide grains each having a multilayer adsorption of dye chromophores on the surface thereof, the method comprising: adding, to the reaction vessel, the modified gelatin; and desalting a silver halide emulsion to which the modified gelatin is added, wherein said adding the modified gelatin is conducted before said desalting.

The present invention as set forth in claim 13 as amended above is directed to a method of preparing, in a reaction vessel, a silver halide emulsion containing water, dispersion medium and silver halide grains wherein the dispersion medium comprises modified gelatin whose amino group is chemically modified, and the silver halide grains comprise spectrally sensitized silver halide grains each having a multilayer adsorption of dye chromophores on the surface thereof, wherein a content of an anionic surfactant in the reaction vessel immediately after the completion of adding all the dye chromophores is 0.45 g or less per mole of silver of a silver halide emulsion contained in the reaction vessel.

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Suzumoto et al do not disclose a specific preparation method relating to the method of preparing a silver halide emulsion as set forth in claims 8, 12 and 13 as amended above.

In view of the above, applicants submit that the present invention as set forth in claims 8, 12 and 13 differs from Suzumoto et al and is patentable thereover.

Turning now to Araki et al, this patent does not anticipate the present claims.

In particular, Araki et al disclose a modified gelatin as in the present invention. See, for example, column 6, lines 50 to 57 and column 8, lines 47 to 67.

However, Araki et al do not disclose that the silver halide grains have adsorbed on the surface thereof, dye chromophores in multi-layers. In Araki et al, spectral sensitization is described, for example, in Comparative Example 1, at column 54, line 53 to column 55, line 49. In this spectral sensitization of the green-sensitive emulsion layer, three sensitizing dyes were employed, but there is no disclosure that the dyes are employed in a manner to form multi-layers.

The Araki et al patent does use the word "multilayer" in Example 4, at column 73, line 62, column 76, line 27, and at column 77 in the two paragraphs that appear after Table 22. The multilayer structure referred to in Example 4, however, relates to multiple emulsion layers, and not multiple dye layers on the surface of a silver halide grain.

Accordingly, applicants submit that Araki et al do not disclose or render obvious the presently claimed invention.

In view of the above, applicants submit that Suzumoto et al and Araki et al do not disclose or render obvious the subject matter of claims 8 to 15, and new claim 19, and, accordingly, request withdrawal of this rejection.

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Claims 1 to 18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0185392 to Suzuki et al.

The Suzuki et al '392 publication does not disclose the method of the present invention as set forth in amended claim 8, 12 and 13.

In view of the above, applicants submit that Suzuki et al do not disclose or render obvious the subject matter of the present claims and, accordingly, request withdrawal of this rejection.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

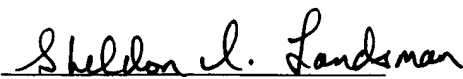
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